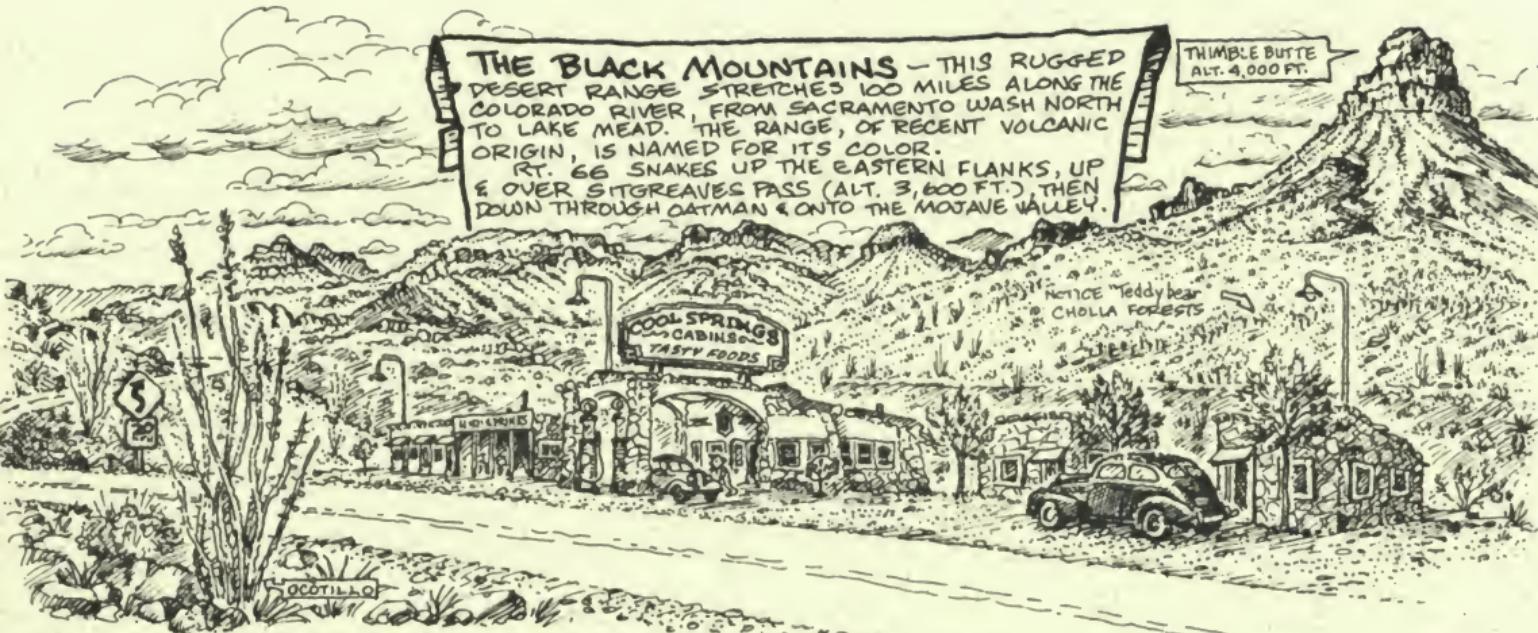


THE BLACK MOUNTAINS - THIS RUGGED DESERT RANGE STRETCHES 100 MILES ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER, FROM SACRAMENTO WASH NORTH TO LAKE MEAD. THE RANGE, OF RECENT VOLCANIC ORIGIN, IS NAMED FOR ITS COLOR.

RT. 66 SNAKES UP THE EASTERN FLANKS, UP & OVER SITGREAVES PASS (ALT. 3,600 FT.) THEN DOWN THROUGH OATMAN & ONTO THE MOJAVE VALLEY.

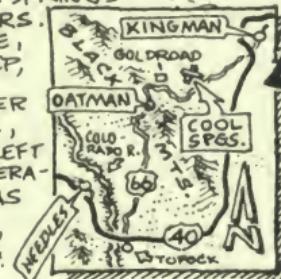
THIMBLE BUTTE
ALT. 4,000 FT.



...BETWEEN KINGMAN & OATMAN, ARIZONA, ON THE EASTERN FLANKS OF THE RUGGED BLACK MOUNTAINS, THE COOL SPRINGS CAMP PERCHED BESIDE OLD OLD 66, A BEACON TO WEARY TRAVELLERS.

BUILT IN THE 1930'S, THE FACILITIES INCLUDED A CAFE, GARAGE, GAS STATION, & TOURIST CABINS, LOCATED JUST BEFORE THE STEEP, WINDING, TREACHEROUS ASCENT OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

WHEN THE NEW ALIGNMENT OF RT. 66 OPENED IN 1951 (LATER PAVED OVER BY I-40), MOST TRAVELLERS BYPASSED THE LONGER, MORE-WINDING, ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT, & COOL SPRINGS WAS LEFT "HIGH & DRY." THE BUSINESS WAS CONVERTED TO A POULTRY OPERATION CALLED "THE CHICKEN RANCH," BUT AFTER A FIRE IT WAS ABANDONED. OVER THE YEARS, THE ELEMENTS & VANDALS TOOK THEIR TOLLS, TOPPLING THE STONE WALLS. TODAY, ONLY FOUNDATIONS & SCATTERED STONES REMAIN, MUTE REMINDERS OF BETTER DAYS.



by R. Waldmire

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